PCT/CA2005/000359

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of generating power from a pressure control station of a natural gas distribution system, comprising the steps of:

channelling natural gas entering the pressure control station into a turbine (52) which is powered by expansion of the natural gas as the pressure of the natural gas is reduced; and capturing the output of the turbine (52) for application for useful purposes.

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2. The method as defined in Claim 1, the natural gas not being pre-heated prior to being channelled into the turbine (52), with a view to intentionally generating cold temperatures, a heat exchanger (56) being provided to utilize the cold temperatures generated for one of refrigeration or air conditioning.

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3. The method as defined in Claim 1, the turbine (52) being used to power an electrical generator (54).

4. The method as defined in Claim 1, using a portion of the natural gas to power a gas fuelled turbine power generator(58), passing the exhaust gases from the gas fuelled turbine power generator (58) through a second heat exchanger (66) to preheat the natural gas being channelled into the turbine (52) and capturing the output of the gas fuelled turbine power generator (58) for application for useful purposes.

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